

Delta Operations for Salmon and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group
Conference call: 02/15/11 at 9:00 a.m.

Objective: Provide advice to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project on salmon and green sturgeon. DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/htm>

DWR: Andy Chu, Mike Ford, Cynthia LeDoux-Bloom, Francine Mejia

FWS: Nick Hindman, Roger Guinee

NMFS: Barbara Rocco, Bruce Oppenheim, Barb Byrne, Jeff Stuart, Garwin Yip

DFG: Dan Kratville

Reclamation: Thuy Washburn, Josh Israel

SWRCB: Ann Snyder, Kari Kyle **EPA:** not present

Agenda

- 1) Fish monitoring
- 2) Water project operations
- 3) Weather forecasts
- 4) Real-time reporting meeting

Fish Monitoring: The following table presents data from 2/7/2011 to 2/13/11.

Location	Chippis Is. Midwater Trawl	Sacramento Kodiak Trawl	Mossdale Kodiak Trawl	Beach Seines	Knights Landing RST	Tisdale Weir RST	Moulton Weir RST	Deer/Mill Creeks RST
Sample Date	2/7, 2/9, 2/11	2/7, 2/9, 2/11	2/7, 2/9, 2/11	2/8, 2/10	2/7–2/14	2/7–2/13	2/7–2/13	2/8–2/14
Total Catch	12	2	0	320	26	32	17	224
FR	0	0	0	249	21	28	13	221
LFR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WR	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
SR	0	0	0	66	4	1	2	3
(Ad-clips)	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
DS	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LFS	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SPTL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SH (ad-clip)	4	2	0	2	1	3	1	0
SH (natural)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Temp. (avg. °F)	50.5	50.4	50.5	50.7	52.4	51.7	51.45	42.0–44.0
Flows (avg. cfs)					7,857	7,795	6,726	202.3–204.4
Turbidity					12.8	6.62	4.40	1.0–2.6

(avg. NTU)								
FR/SR Avg. CPUE					1.30	2.04*	0.941	
WR/LFR Avg. CPUE					0.05	0	0	

Key: FR = Fall run; LFR = Late-fall run; SR = Spring run; WR = Winter run; SH = Steelhead; DS = Delta smelt; LFS = Longfin smelt; SPTL = Splittail., *Note: There is an error on Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) calculation for 2/14.

Moulton: Flows are going down from 7,204 to 6,438 cfs. Water temperature is down to 51.0°F. Turbidity is up. Catch was 15 on 2/5 and 4 on 2/14; CPUE ranged from 3.7 to 1.0. There were no winter run or unclipped fish caught but there was 1 ad-clipped Chinook caught.

Tisdale: Flows went from approximately 8,300 to 7,400 cfs. Water temperature was up to 51.8°F; turbidity was down. Catch was down from 12 on 2/5 to 5 on 2/13. The first 3 days, there were from 3 to 1 fall and spring run caught; no winter or late fall run Chinook were caught.

Knights Landing: Overall, flows are down from 8,200 to 7,500 cfs (2/12) and turbidity is down from 12 to 10 NTU. CPUE was up to 2.9 but decreased to 0 on 2/14.

Beach Seines: Mostly fall-run, 1 ad-clipped Chinook (134 mm), but no race indicated.

Sacramento trawl: Only 2 hatchery steelhead caught (217 and 232 mm).

Chippis Is: 2 ad-clipped Chinook (150 and 138 mm), but no race was indicated.

Mill & Deer Creeks: (DFG) Traps were fished continuously during this reporting period. There were two yearlings spring-run, and 177 fry caught at Mill Creek; 1 yearling spring-run and 47 fry caught at Deer Creek. No juvenile rearing surveys were made because of state furlough schedules. The cones have been raised on both traps (2/14/11) because of the predicted high flows. The traps may be reset on Thursday (2/17/11) if flows recede as predicted.

Salvage data (2/7–2/13) For additional info:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>

CVP: 24 fall run were salvaged for a loss of 17; there were no late fall or spring-run. The last winter-run salvaged was on 2/6; none this past week.

SWP: There was zero Chinook salvaged, or loss of any race. Winter-run were last seen on 2/3/11. **Cumulative total:** Combined YTD loss for non-clipped winter run is 928 since 10/1/10.

Steelhead CVP: 11 hatchery steelhead salvaged; no natural fish were salvaged.

SWP: 22 hatchery steelhead salvaged; and 8 natural steelhead were salvaged.

Cumulative total: 177 hatchery steelhead and 38 natural steelhead salvaged since 10/1/10.

SWP & CVP OLDER JUVENILE* CHINOOK LOSS & LOSS DENSITY 02/07/2011 through 02/13/2011

Date	OLDER JUVENILE LOSS** (# fish)	Combined Older Juvenile Loss Density
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	SWP	CVP	Combined	(fish/TAF)
02/07/2011	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
02/08/2011	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
02/09/2011	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
02/10/2011	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
02/11/2011	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
02/12/2011	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
02/13/2011	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

DWR-DES 2/14/2011

Preliminary, subject to revision

*Older juveniles defined as all Chinook above the minimum winter run length (Delta Model)

**Loss data obtained from DFG, Stockton

Other Species of Concern: There were no delta smelt, longfin smelt, green or white sturgeon caught. Some splittail came through.

Smelt Working Group (SWG) update: Kodiak trawls: There were 128 delta smelt; most were from the Sacramento ship channel; Kodiak #3 was in the field last week; no data until next week.

No longfin or delta smelt were salvaged at the facilities. There was no recommendation this week; most monitoring indicates that adults and larva are to the west at the Sacramento River side. No elevated risk; rivers coming up is a good thing for delta smelt. No recommendation for delta or longfin smelt from DFG. Turbidity might go up with the coming storm. It is something to watch down the road. A storm or wind event will cause some surges in turbidity and should be considered going forward. At Holland, turbidity jumped to nearly 100 NTU; it is not as critical for delta smelt but should be considered. DWR suggested looking at whether it is widespread or determine a decision for making export cuts. The SWG is potentially looking at more sites rather than just three for turbidity monitoring. Any wind at Holland may bias the reading and this issue is coming up in the winter months.

Operations:

SWP		CVP	
Flows/Exports (cfs)			
Clifton Court Forebay	7,000 targeting 6,500 within a day	Jones Pumping Plant	1,800 targeting 2,700 within a day
Outflow	16,000	American- Nimbus	2,500
Total Delta Inflow		Sacramento-Keswick	3,900
		Stanislaus - Goodwin	200
Feather - Oroville	1,750		
Sacramento R. at Freeport	16,600		
San Joaquin at Vernalis	7,400	Merced	
OMR (daily)	-3,700 to -5,100	Mokelumne	
OMR 5 day	-4,900	Tuolumne	
OMR 14 day	-4,586		
Reservoir Storage (TAF)			
San Luis	990	San Luis	972
Shasta			

Folsom			
New Melones			1.637
Oroville			
Delta Operations			
DCC gates	closed	E/I (%)	33
Outflow Index (cfs)	16,000		
Inflow diverted			
Water Temperature (°F)	51.3		

San Luis Reservoir: Down to 1 unit operating because of hydraulic head; 1 unit = close to 2,500 af so about 1,200 cfs per day. Not currently filling on the SWP side but may go back to filling once the outage at O'Neill is back up. O'Neill is a forebay to San Luis. It will take 20–30 more days to fill the reservoir; will fill by March at the current rate. Exports will remain the same from the Delta; we will still meet demand.

OMR flow at no more negative than -5,000 cfs is currently controlling exports. E/I ratio may reach 35% this weekend and control exports.

Inflows into Shasta Reservoir were 8,484 cfs yesterday: less than ½ inch of rain. It is wetter farther north. Expect 4 inches in the Feather and Sacramento River systems.

Weather forecast: About 4 inches of rain are expected to fall up north over the next few days but will taper off by Friday. The National Weather Service projections for Verona: flows going up on 2/16 from 14,000 to 36,000 cfs at Sacramento River. It looks like a short 2- to 3-day pulse and will go back down. The pulse is from the first storm going through now; the second storm will be much colder; DWR does not anticipate much runoff from that one. The snow elevation is down to 500 ft. There might be some runoff in the valley, but it would be minimal. Expect 1.7 inches today and tomorrow with the bulk of rain tonight and tomorrow. There is some indication that we'll get another storm next week.

Other issues: The Corps is planning to dredge the Sacramento ship channel. There are a lot of delta smelt found there because it is prime habitat; therefore, there is a concern that dredging would alter the entire habitat for delta smelt. This would be good for SWG to discuss. The Corps has to do an environmental report.

Georgiana Slough: No update on DWR non-physical barrier.

Real-time data reporting: DWR began the meetings already; met last week internally with Environmental Services, will meet with Skinner fish facility folks, and then with Reclamation. It was noted to include someone from environmental affairs. DWR needs to ensure that it complies with the NMFS BiOp data reporting RPA actions. What is the timeframe? The general idea is to improve reporting of real-time data; daily reporting of loss and loss density. It was noted that DOSS would refer to the timeframe as the “daily decision-making framework”.

DOSS advice to WOMT and NMFS: No advice to WOMT or NMFS.

Next Meeting: Conference call, 2/22/11, 9:00 a.m.